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logical Herods have slain and sucked the blood of myriads of infant mosquitoes and other insects; and now, in their new world above the waters, with still more intensified powers of doing mischief, happily, however, to flies mostly obnoxious to man, they riot in bloodshed and carnage.

This is the season to stock the fresh-water aquarium. Go to the nearest brook, gather a sprig or two of the Water Cress, which spreads so rapidly, a root of the Eel Grass, and plant them in a glass dish or deep jar. Pour in your water, let the sand and sediment settle, and then put in a few Tadpoles, a Newt (Salamander), Snails, (*Limnea*, *Planorbis*, and *Valvata*), Caddis Flies, and Water Beetles, together with the gatherings from a thicket of Eel Grass, or other submerged plants, being rich in the young of various flies, Ephemeras, Dragon-flies, and Water-fleas (*Entomostraca*), which last are beautiful objects for the microscope, and in a few days the occupants will "feel at home," and the aquarium will be swarming with life, affording amusement and occupation for many a dull hour, by day or at night, in watching the marvels of insect transformations, and plant-growth.—A. S. P.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History. *January* 16. Concluded. —Mr. W. W. Bailey read a paper on *Epigæa repens*, the May flower, by Prof. L. W. Bailey, of Fredericton, N. B., in which he mentions finding specimens exhibiting the following peculiarities: Corolla, imperfectly salverform (the petals not thoroughly coherent into a tube, which were not hairy), and apparently not *deciduous;* the stamens reverted into specimens of the ordinary kind more or less united. Some of these showing a transitional form, in having a filament-like base, but no anthers. The pistils were indistinct, and had reverted into petals.

Feb. 6, 1867.—The Secretary read a paper by Dr. S. Kneeland, on a fungoid Parasite, or Caterpillar Fungus, from the Philippine Islands, to which were appended some remarks of Mr. C. J. Sprague, on the probable botanical relations of this fungus.

Dr. J. C. White exhibited, under the microscope, living young of the Guinea, or thread-worm (Filaria Medinensis). He described the form and mode of development of the parent animal, and spoke of what was known of their habits, and their mode of effecting an entrance into the human body during bathing in places where they occurred.

Mr. W. T. Brigham stated that it was generally believed near Calcutta, that a certain species of fish destroyed this worm, and only those who bathed in tanks unstocked with this fish were troubled by them.

Mr. W. Winwood Reade said, that in Africa they were much more common in Guinea proper, than on any other part of the coast; it was there generally believed to be prevalent on account of the impurity of the drinking water.

Mr. Theodore Lyman remarked on the laws of breeding Shad and Salmon, the gradual extirpation of these fish from our rivers by the erection of dams, and exhibited models of fish-ways which had recently been constructed on the Merrimac, under the direction of the State Commissioners.

Mr. F. W. Putnam, after announcing the donation of two species of fish from Lake Winnipisiogee, one the *Lota maculosa* (Ling, or fresh-water Cusk), and the other a species of Lake Trout, probably the *Salmo confinis* of De Kay, remarked that it seemed to him a matter of doubt whether many of our Lake Trout are anything more than forms of the Brook Trout. Referring also to Mr. Lyman's remarks on the habits of the Salmon, Mr. Putnam stated that Dr. Bernard Gilpin, of Nova Scotia, had recently been making observations upon the male Salmon, and had discovered that it must have three sets of teeth formed one after the other; that one set falls out just before ascending the river, when the cartilaginous enlargement of the jaws takes place; that a new set grows out during the ascent of the stream, which is destroyed during its contests with others of its sex, and by excavating hollows in the gravel for the eggs; in this condition it returns to the sea, where it again attains a new and normal set of teeth.

Section of Microscopy. Feb. 13, 1867.—Mr. Charles Stodder read a paper on the fungus found on insects, and showed four preparations which he had made for examination. Mr. Stodder also read a paper upon a recent gathering of Diatomaceous mud, from Pleasant Beach, Cohasset.

Dr. B. J. Jeffries exhibited some glasses and metallic mirrors used in examination of diseases of the eye. He made remarks upon the use of colored glasses (blue), the mode of coloring, and the advantage of this particular color (cobalt blue) over green or grey in relieving the eye from the effects of sunlight.

ESSEX INSTITUTE, *Salem, February* 4.—Mr. F. W. Putnam exhibited a singular specimen of the Horned Pout (*Pimelodus atrarius* De Kay) from Lake Champlain, presented by Dr. B. Pickman, of Boston. The fish was pure white, thus showing that albinos occur among fishes as well as in the birds and mammals, though this was the first instance of albinism known to him as occurring in this class.

THE LYCEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY OF NEW YORK.—At the annual meeting of the Lyceum of Natural History, held in Clinton Hall on Monday night, Feb. 25, the following officers were elected: President, Prof. Charles A. Joy (of Columbia College); First Vice-President, Prof. J. S. Newberry; Second Vice-President, Gen. Livingston Satterlee; Corresponding Secretary, Robert Dinwiddie; Recording Secretary, Robert H. Browne; Treasurer, Temple Prime; Curators, S. C. H. Bailey, Geo. N. Lawrence, Dr. Richard P. Stevens, George Suckley, M. D.; Librarian, Oran W. Morris.

This Society was founded in 1818, by Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Torrey, Mr. Cooper, and a few students of science. The early records of their meetings contain amusing accounts of the explorations made by the members to remote parts of the Island of New York, and of their adventures among the swamps and brambles of Pearl and Canal streets, Some of the more enterprising members sought for minerals in the regions of Central Park, and the analyses were published in Bruce's Mineralogical Journal. De Witt Clinton was a contributor to the Annals of the Lyceum, and Audubon, De Kay, Lucien Bonaparte, Cooper, Dana, Torrey, Le Conte, and Thomson were among the early writers who sent communications to the Society. There have only been three Presidents during the fifty years of the existence of the Lyceum, Dr. Mitchell, Dr. Torrey, and Major Delafield. The latter declined a re-election, and the honor now devolves upon a younger generation. It is proposed to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary next year, and, in view of the fact that the Society has no hall of its own, an effort will be made to raise $100,000 for the purpose of securing suitable accommodations.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—The Sixteenth Annual Meeting will be held at Burlington, Vermont. The Session begins on Wednesday, August 21st, 1867, at 10 o'clock, A. M.

"The last meeting of the Association at Buffalo, N. Y., continued for a week, and was considered a pleasant and successful renewal of the yearly conventions of the Association. About ninety old members were in attendance, one hundred and twelve new members were elected, and sixty-nine papers were presented and read.

"Fears lest the cholera might prevent the Meeting at Buffalo, as it did at Cleveland for one year, caused the circular to be delayed until after many members of the Association had left their homes for the summer, or had made other arrangements inconsistent with a journey to Buffalo. On this account the meeting was not so well attended as on some other occasions. The previous meeting at Newport, R. I., had also been small. As the assessments are collected, in large part, at the meetings, the funds of the Association have suffered from two meetings, more thinly attended than the average, following each other in immediate succession. It will be impossible to print the usual volume of Proceedings, unless the funds are largely augmented: the expense of paper and printing having greatly increased, while the collections have diminished. If the arrears now due to the Association are promptly paid, the Publications can proceed as usual, and the Association stand on an independent basis."—JOSEPH LOVERING, *Permanent Secretary, Cambridge, Mass.*

AMERICAN MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY. *New York, January* 26, 1867. —Mr. A. M. Edwards read a paper entitled "Note on the relations of Monochromatic Light to Microscopical Observations," calling attention again to the fact of his having some time back brought before this Society a theory of his, of the relation of active illumination to vision, and the definition of objects seen through lenses; at the same time detailing some recent investigations made by others, which he considered to confirm his theory. He then proceeded to illustrate his subject by using the colored plates in Chevereul's book on the applications of colors to the industrial arts, illuminating them by the Sodium flame, gas-light, and the light of burning magnesium successively. He remarked how careful observers should be in drawing conclusions from what they think they see by means of the microscope.

Mr. J. E. Gavit detailed two cases in which he had been called upon to use the microscope for the purpose of deciding points in which large sums of money were involved. The first was to decide which of two writings crossing each other—one in black ink, the other in red—was the most recent. With a microscope, he was able to demonstrate, to the perfect satisfaction of the parties interested, which was written last. The second case was to decide if a name written to the codicil of a will was a forgery or not, and described the manner in which he had used a microscope to determine that point.

Mr. Edwards spoke of some discoveries of Prof. H. L. Smith, who thought he had seen the formation of an Amœba from the contents of a Pinnularia, and the after formation of an Actinophrys from that Amœba.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CANADA, *Quebec Branch. Annual Meeting, Jan.* 9, 1867.—After the Address of the President, the Secretary read the Third Annual Report of the Council.

A paper on a Parasite infesting the Trout, was read by Mr. William Couper, of Quebec.

This Society has also a Branch Society at London and Toronto, C. W.

ACADEMY OF NATURAL SCIENCES OF PHILADELPHIA. *Feb.* 19.—The following papers were presented:—

A list of introduced Plants, mostly Southern, growing in the waste ground below Philadelphia Navy Yard, and at Kaighri's Point and Petty's Island, on the opposite shore of the Delaware, in 1864, 1865, and 1866, by Aubrey H. Smith.

On the Habits of the Cutting Ant of Texas, by G. Lincecum, M. D.

A letter was read from C. M. Wetherill, Bethlehem, Pa., regarding the Structure of Hacolumites.

A communication was received from the Recorder of the Conchological Section, announcing their organization and the election of officers.

March 5.—Prof. Leeds remarked on the Magnesium Light. Prof. Hayden exhibited some field sketches of the far West. Prof. Ennis spoke on the origin of the Stars, the causes of their motions, and their light.

ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA.—At a meeting held March 11, 1867, the following By-Law was unanimously adopted:—

> "Article 1, Chapter 1.—The Society shall be called the AMERICAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY, and is instituted for the improvement and advancement of Entomological Science, and the investigation of the character and habits of Insects."

The above change has been made for two reasons. 1st. That the Society has to rely on the country at large for support, and in order to receive this support, the erroneous idea which is in many minds, namely, that the Society is a *local* institution, must be displaced. 2d. It is believed that this change in the name will extend the reputation and claims of the Society, and awaken new and more extended exertions for the permanent support of the only Entomological Society in the United States.

THE YORK INSTITUTE OF SACO, MAINE.—This Society, recently organized for the promotion of the Natural Sciences and History, are adding new members to their ranks, and from the proceeds of a course of lectures, have furnished their room with cases in which to display their collection.

PORTLAND SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY.—We are glad to learn that this Society, despite their unprecedented misfortunes in losing for the second time their entire collections by fire, are about to resume their publications by completing the first volume of their "Proceedings." The first part was published several years since. The second part, now to be published, will contain seventy-two pages.